

**To the Printers of the American daily advertiser [Correspondence between Robert Morris and Jonas Fauchet] [Philadelphia 1795].**

To the Printers of the American Daily Advertiser.

*Philadelphia, June 10, 1795.*

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67 lines

IN the month of April I received from Paris copies of two letters, one written by Jonas Fauches, the other by Joseph Fauchet, minister from the republic of France to the United States, which had been published there the 18th Nivos, 1794, in a paper stiled, "Feuille de la Republique." I wrote immediately to Mr. Fauchet, a letter dated the 13th of April, and received his reply on the 20th of that month. Copies of these letters are sent herewith, and also copies of sundry certificates (the originals of which are in my possession) respecting the quality and titles of the Georgia lands which I have purchased, all which I request you to insert in your useful paper. It was not my intention to have published these papers in America, because I have been assured, since our correspondence, that Mr. Fauchet, in regard to me, acted more from inattention and want of consideration than from any other cause, and that the injury he has done me is not imputable to design. Be this, however, as it may, I feel myself ill-used; my character has been attacked in distant countries upon the score of dealings which are not only important to myself but to many others; and which, if I am not deceived, are also of some utility to the United States. This attack was unexpected and unmerited—unexpected, because Jonas Fauches is a stranger unknown to me; but upon enquiry of gentlemen from Georgia, I am told he keeps a tippling house in one of the western counties of that state. As he had never *honoured* me with his correspondence, and we had neither intercourse or dealings together, I could not expect an attack from such a quarter. As to Mr. Fauchet, I had not the most distant idea of anything but friendly intercourse with him, because I felt and encouraged in myself a disposition to cultivate his acquaintance—my conversations upon his subject, and my behaviour upon all occasions, were assimilated to this impulse; consequently an attack from him was unexpected.—I have said this attack was unmerited: Unmerited as to the parties who have made it; because, being entirely unacquainted with one, and well-disposed towards the other, I could not have given just cause of provocation to either: Unmerited as to the matters charged or insinuated against me; because the charges and insinuations are false and groundless; as will appear by the certificates of a number of respectable gentlemen, who have given their signatures, and would have certified. I declined this as unnecessary, believing that the signature of a man of character will gain the same confidence as his path.

The appearance of Messrs. Fauches and Fauchet's letters in the American news-papers must be my apology for bringing these papers into public view.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient servant, *ROBERT MORRIS*.

Messrs. Dunlap & Claypoole.

COPIE.

Philadelphie, le I Floreal, an 3 de la republique Française, une et indivisible. (20 Avril, 1795.)

Monsieur,

Je n'ai aucune connoissance de la feuille, dont vous m'envoyez un extrait; je remarque feulement une inexactitude dans la copie de ma lettre au commissaire, des relations exterieures qui influe beaucoup fur le sens. Mais comme dans cette lettre je ne me borne a indiquer en general un danger trop réel, et qu'il n'y a pas un mot fur M. Robert Morris, vous trouverez bon que je ne reponde point aux interpellations que vous me faites.

Quant à la lettre qui m'a été adressée comme renseignement, et qui j'ai simplement transmise, ce n'est pas moi qui l'ai fait imprimer; je vais en demander au gouvernement la copie qui vous desirez. Je ne vois pas au reste, eu quoi cette lettre vous blesse; vous y etes mentionne comme trompé vous même par les speculateurs qui cherchoient à vous vendre, et vous ne devez pas être surpris que le ministre de la republique Française se soit abîténu de vous metre fur vos gardes dans des affaires aussi etrangères à ses fonctions.

Mon devoir. Monsieur, est de saire parvenir au gouvernement de la nation, que je represente à *present*, tons les avis qu'on me donne fur les choses qui lui sont prejudiciables ou utiles. Quelque fuit la maniere et le moment que vous choiurez pour me fournir les preuves dont vous me parlez. Je m'empresserai de les envoyer avec votre lettre au comité de fal?t publ?, asin que le remede se trouve fur les lieux où a été fait ce qui vous appelez le mal.

Je m'estime assez, Monsieur, pour ne pas prendre la peine de resuter les motifs que vous me pretez. Je joue le role d'un homme disinteressé, mais qui prend beaucoup de part au fort des victimes de l'affaire du Scioto, et qui tremble que fes concitoyens ne foient exposés à une semblable calamité.

Salut, (Signé) J. FAUCHET.

Mr. Robert Morris, négociant, à Philadelphie.

(TRANSLATION.)

Philadelphia, 1st of Floreal, 3d year of the French republic, one and indivisible. (20th April, 1795.)

Sir,

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27

I have no knowledge of the publication from which you send me an extract. I only remark an inexactness in the copy of my letter to the commissioner for foreign affairs, which changes much the meaning of it. But, as in that letter I confine myself to pointing out generally a too real danger, and there is not one word concerning Mr. Robert Morris, you will excuse my not answering the interrogatories you put to me. As to the letter which was sent to me for information, and which I have simply transmitted, it is not I that had it printed. I am going to ask from government the copy you desire. However, I do not see wherein that letter wounds you—you are only mentioned in it as being yourself deceived by the speculators who sought to sell to you; and you ought not to be surprised at the minister of the French republic's abstaining from putting you on your guard in matters so foreign to his functions. My duty, Sir, is to communicate to the government of the nation I *at present* represent, all the information given to me on matters either prejudicial or useful to it. Whatever may be the manner and the time you shall choose to furnish me the proofs you speak of, I shall hasten to send them, with your letter, to the committee of public safety, in order that the remedy may be found on the spot where what you call the mischief has been done.

I esteem myself sufficiently, Sir, not to take the trouble of refuting the motives which you ascribe to me. I act the part of a disinterested man, but who feels sensibly for the fate of the victims of the Scioto affair, and who trembles lest his fellow citizens should again be exposed to a like calamity.

Salut.

(Signed) FAUCHET.

Mr. Robert Morris, Merchant, Philadelphia.

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16

(COPY.)

Philadelphia, 13th April, 1795.

To Citizen J. B. Fauchet.

Sir,

I have received from Paris an extract from the journal, entitled "Feuille de la Republique," published on the 18th Nivos, as follows:

"Le commissaire des relations exterieures a reçu "de Joseph Fauchet, ministre plenipotentiaire de "la republique Francaise près les Etats, Unis, une "lettre crite de Philadelphie, le 2 jour des fansculorides, "et ainsi concue."

"Citoyen,

"Je t'ai déjà prevenu daus une de mes depêches "des manœuvres pratiquées par les grands, propriétaires "Americains pour attirer ici les Francais et "leur vendre à un prix quelquefois au triple des "terres dont ils ne peuvent leur assurer la possession, "ou qui ont absolument hors d'etat de fournir "à leurs premiers besoins. Je ne m'attendrai "pas fur le danger de tolerer parmi nous de pareilles "sriponneries, mais je crois essentiel de les rendre "publiques, pour que nos concitoyens "suffisamment avertis des risques qu'ils courent. Je "t'envoi ci-joint la copie d'une lettre que je viens "de recevoir, et que ve prie de communiquer au "comité de salut publique, pour qu'il en fasse l'usage "qu'il croira convenable."

"Etat de Georgie, comté de Greene.

"Greenborough, ce 24 Aout 1794.

"Monsieur,

"Il y a dans ce pays une foule de speculateurs "qui arpentent des terres on arides ou steriles, ou "en possession de proprietaires legitimes, ou qui "sont hors des limites que les Etats-Unis se font "données par les derniers traités avec les Indiens. "Ces proprietaires pretendues obtiennent cependant "des *plots* ou *grants*, ou titres attestées par le "gouvernement et autres officiers de l'etat proposés 'à cet esset, mais les lois de cet etat ont pourvu "à ce que ces *grants* obtenus en fraude, ou comme "ci-devant expliqué, feroient de nulle valeur.

"Ces imposteurs vendent leurs pretenduei terres "à des marchands qui les revendent, à ce que j'apprends, "à *M. Robert Morris*, et celui-ci à des familles "Françaises, qui ont déjà passé ou qui ent

“dessein d'emigrer dans ce pays. Voila le fait, les “fatales consequences de ce dédale d'iniquités pour  
“ces familles se developent d'elles-mêmes.

“Si rous jugez utile que le contenu de cette lettre “soit public avec mon nom en Anglois et en  
“François, ici et en Europe, je n'ai pas la moindre “objection à faire.

“Votre très obeissant serviteur, (Signé) JONAS FAUCHES.”

“Pour copic conforme,

(Signé) J. FAUCHET.”

This publication is made under such authority and circumstances, with your name affixed, as to leave no cause of doubt as to the authenticity; therefore, it is unnecessary to ask of you whether it is genuine or not. The respect I have for the nation which you *at present* have the honour to represent, will restrain me from making all the observations on the part you have acted in this business, which I should otherwise do; but, in justice to myself, I must remark, that at the time you transmitted the letters to France, you could have had the opportunity, any day you pleased, of making communication thereof to me, and of hearing what I could say as to the truth or falsehood, so far as they relate to me, of the facts stated. You and I were then, and ever since have been, in the habits of interchanging the usual civilities of persons that are upon good terms with each other; and, for my own part, I not only conceived that our intercourse was friendly, but upon all occasions, I expressed my approbation of your public conduct and demeanour. I suppose, however, it was by you deemed to be one of the modes of gaining the approbation of your government, to shew a zealous care for the French citizens incapable of judging for themselves. This zeal could not have been manifested, if, by communicating with me, the truth should destroy the *assumed* facts. It was better, therefore, to sacrifice the reputation of Robert Morris, than to lose the opportunity of recommending yourself. Whatever may have been the views or motives by which you were actuated when you suffered my name to appear in the publication, are best known to yourself, and they are only suggested to my mind from a consideration of the nature of the case. However, sir, I do assert now, as I should have done last fall, had you given me the opportunity, the following facts, viz.

First, That in all the purchases of Georgia lands which I have made or been concerned in, the greatest possible care and caution has been previously taken to ascertain that the quality of the soil is good and the titles perfect.

Secondly, I never did buy, nor have I made any purchase of, Georgia lands, to which the Indian title has not been previously obtained. My lands are within the settled parts of the country, within counties in which courts of justice are held, and the laws of the state carried into effect.

Thirdly, I never did invite French citizens to emigrate from their own country to this, neither did I ever wish for such emigrations.

Fourthly, I never did felt, or offer to fell, my Georgia lands to French families, either in or out of France. It is true, that in one or two instances, at the request of certain French gentlemen, I did empower them to make sale, in Europe or the West-Indies, of some few tracts, more for the fake of giving them employment, and a commission, than for any use or purpose of my own.

Fifthly, If I had been desirous to fell lands to French settlers, I should in that, as in other instances, have desired them to view the lands themselves, or by their agents, previous to a purchase.

Sixthly, Of all the uncultivated lands in the United States that have been sold by me, there is not one tract or parcel that I am not willing to take back, and repay to the purchaser what he gave me for it, with interest of six per cent, per annum, from the date of the receipt to the time of repayment.

In support of these assertions I adduce the certificates, copies whereof will be annexed hereto.—And now, sir, as the only reparation you can make to a man whom, without cause or provocation, you have attempted to injure, I request that you will deliver to me the original letter of Jonas Fauches, with a declaration that to the best of your belief and knowledge it is genuine, and figured with his own hand.—This will enable me to obtain that justice from him, for his libel, which the laws of the land will afford to the injured. I also request that you either prove or disavow those things which are alledged in his and your letters, so far as the same regards me.

I am, Sir, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT MORRIS.

P. S. Upon farther consideration, I deem it unnecessary to send the certificates to you, they will appear more properly in another place.

*Translation of extract from the "de la Republique." See R. Morris's Letter to J. Fauchet, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1795.*

The commissioner for foreign affairs has received from Joseph Fauchet, minister plenipotentiary from the French republic to the United States, a letter written at Philadelphia, on the 2d of the Sans Culotides, in the following terms.

Citizen,

I have already apprized thee, in one of my dispatches, of the manœuvres practised by great American land-holders, to draw hither the French and sell to them sometimes at thrice their value, lands which they cannot insure them the possession of, or which are absolutely incapable of supplying their first wants. I shall not enlarge on the danger of tolerating amongst us such rognery, but I think it essential to render it public, in order that our fellow-citizens may be sufficiently warned of the risks they run. I send thee herewith the copy of a letter which I have just received, and which I beg thee to communicate to the committee of public safety, that they may make such use thereof as they shall think proper.

State of Georgia, green county, Greensborough, 24th August, 1794.

Sir,

There are in this country a crowd of speculators, who survey poor or barren lands, which are either in possession of the rightful owners, or out of the limits fixed by the United States, in their last treaties with the Indians. These pretended proprietors obtain, nevertheless, *plots* and *grants*, or titles attested by the government, and other officers of the state appointed for the purpose; but the laws of this state have provided that these *grants*, obtained by fraud, or as before explained, shall be of no account.

These impostors sell their pretended lands to merchants, who resell them, as I learn, to Mr. Robert Morris, and he again to French families, who already have come, or who design to emigrate, to this country. This is the fact. The fatal consequences of this labyrinth of iniquities to these families develop themselves. If you judge it useful that the contents of this letter be published in English and French, here and in Europe, with my name, I have not the least objection.

Your very obedient servant, (Signed) JONAS FAUCHES.

A true copy.

(Signed) J. B. FAUCHET.

(COPY.)

AN extract from a Journal, entitled "Feuille de la Republique," published at Paris on the 18th Nivos last, having been shewn to me, and by which it appears that Robert Morris, Esq. has been calumniated in a very unjustifiable underhand manner by the person calling himself Jonas Fauches, I, James Montfort, have thought it incumbent on me (in justice to said Morris) to come forward and declare, and I do hereby declare and certify, that the said Morris, acting for himself and others, purchased from me sundry tracts of land in the state of Georgia, amounting together to about three hundred and fifty thousand acres; the situation of which lands I am well acquainted with, and know that no part thereof is out of, or even near to, the boundaries or limits fixed by treaties between the native Indians and the United States, and that so far from there being any doubt, as to the sufficiency of the titles, I know that they are indisputably good.—I know too, that since purchasing from me the said lands, the said Morris has employed surveyors, and other capable persons, to run the lines anew, so as to ascertain if there were any interferences, and that no interferences, either by prior surveys or otherwise, have been discovered.—It is also well known to me, that both previous to and since my selling said lands to the said Morris, he has employed surveyors, and other capable persons, to make enquiries and examine into the nature of the soil, and other circumstances relating thereto—and that the said lands have been found to be (as the subscriber also knows them to be, and which by a long residence in and acquaintance with the state of Georgia, generally he thinks himself competent to judge of) equal in every respect to bodies of land generally, of like extent, within the state of Georgia.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, at Philadelphia, this 20th day of April, 1795.

Signed, JAMES MONTFORT:

WE the subscribers are well acquainted with the land alluded to within, sold by Mr. James Montfort, of Georgia, to the Hon. Robert Morris, of Philadelphia, and know them to be within the limits of the state of Georgia, and clear of Indian claim.

Given under our hands, at Philadelphia, this 21st April, 1795.

Signed,

Geo. Naylor,

G. Denison,



J. Hall.

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(COPY.)

To whom it may concern:

The subscriber, George Naylor, a citizen of the state of Georgia, having perused an extract from a Journal, entitled, "*Feuille, de la Republique,*" published at Paris, on the 18th Nivos last, does hereby certify and declare, (in justice to Robert Morris, esq. of Philadelphia, who appears to have been grossly and unjustifiably calumniated by the person subscribing himself Jonas Fauches) that he sold to the said Robert Morris, acting for himself and others, sundry tracts of land, in the state of Georgia, amounting to about six hundred and twenty-five thousand acres: that there is not any part of said land out of the limits reserved to the U. S. by existing treaties with the native Indians; nor is it even near the frontiers or boundaries of the Indian country; that he has no reason to think there is the least doubt of the sufficiency of the title to any part of the said tract of land, so sold by him, but is convinced that the titles thereto are indisputable. That, to his knowledge, the said Morris has, since purchasing said lands, employed surveyors, and other properly qualified persons, to run the lines anew, in order to ascertain if, by means of prior surveys, or otherwise, there were any interferences, and that no interferences have been discovered. That both previous to and since buying said lands, Robert Morris has employed surveyors, and other capable persons, to make enquiries, and examine into the nature of the soil and other circumstances relating thereto; and that said lands have been found (as he the subscriber also knows them to be, and which a long residence in, and general knowledge of, the state of Georgia enables him to speak confidently respecting) to be equal to any bodies of land of equal extent within the state of Georgia. Done at Philadelphia, the 18th day of April, 1795.

Signed, GEO. NAYLOR

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63.

(COPY.)

I, Thomas Davis, jun. of Montgomery county, in the state of Pennsylvania, Surveyor, do hereby certify and declare, that in the month of March, 1793, I was employed by Robert Morris and Thomas Fitzsimons, Esquires, of the city of Philadelphia, to view and examine three large tracts of land in the state of Georgia, which they intended to purchase, provided my report of the situation, soil, and other circumstances relating thereto, should be satisfactory—and that in consequence of my report thereon, contained in a certificate signed by me, and dated the 23d of July, 1793, they, the said

Morris and Fitzsimons, did purchase the said lands from Patrick Crukshanks and others, residents of Georgia.—And I do further certify and declare, that I have since been employed by the said Robert Morris, to view sundry other tracts of lands within the said state of Georgia, which have been purchased by said Morris, acting for himself and others, from John Hall and Gideon Denison, George Naylor, James Montford, and Samuel Jack, all now or late residents of the said state of Georgia, and respecting which the said Hall and Denison, George Naylor and James Montfort, have severally given certificates under their respective hands, dated the 18th and 20th instant, and that I have viewed the lands alluded to in said certificates, as well as those sold, as aforesaid, by Samuel Jack; and, being well acquainted with their situation, know that there is not any part thereof out of the limits reserved to the United States by existing treaties with the native Indians, nor even near the boundaries of the Indian country; but that said lands are either settled parts of the country and in countries where counts of justice are held, and the laws of the state duly enforced.—That in regard to quality, said lands are equal to any bodies of like extent within the said state, being fit for cultivation—and that they are intrinsically worth much more than the said Morris gave for them—and I have good reason to believe that the said Morris's titles to the said lands are indisputable—and further, that having, as a surveyor, had opportunities of acquiring much experience and knowledge of the quality, and other circumstances relating to the lands in Georgia generally, I consider myself competent to form a correct judgment in what relates to them.

Witness my hand, at Philadelphia, the 22d day of April, 1795.

Signed,

Thomas Davis, Surv.

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48.

(COPY.)

We the subscribers, John Hall and Gideon Denison, having perused an extract from a Journal entitled, "Feuille de la Republique," published at Paris, on the 18th of Nivos last, and induced, in justice to Robert Morris, esq. of Philadelphia, whom we consider as having been ungenerously and unjustifiably-standered by the man calling himself Jonas Fauches, to come forward and declare, and we do hereby declare and certify, that we have sold to the said Robert Morris, acting for himself and others, large tracts of land, situate in the state of Georgia, amounting, in the whole, to nine hundred and forty-nine thousand four hundred and ten acres. That we are well acquainted with the situation of the lands sold by us as aforesaid, and know that there is not a single tract of the lands bought by the said Morris from us, but what is within the limits reserved to the United States by existing treaties with the Indians; and, we do also know, that none of the said lands are within several miles

of the frontiers or boundaries of the Indian country;—and further, we do not know or believe that there is the least doubt of the sufficiency and goodness of the titles to any of the said lands sold by us aforementioned;on the contrary, we are satisfied the titles thereto are indisputable. We also know, that previous to and since the sales made by us to the said Morris, a surveyor well skilled in his office, and other persons properly qualified, were sent into Georgia, by Mr. Morris, to view the country generally, but more particularly the lands purchased by him, and to examine and to enquire into the nature and soil of the same, and to make actual re-surveys of them in order to ascertain if there were any interferences by prior surveys or otherwise. That we have understood those persons have reported said lands to be equal in quality to any bodies of land, of equal extent,within that state;which, from our own knowledge, we believe to be the case. And further, no interferences from re-surveys, of the aforesaid lands, have been, by the surveyors, (to our knowledge) discovered.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands, at Philadelphia, the 18th of April, 1795.

Signed, J. HALL.

Signed, G. DENNISON.

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203

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Morris Fauchet

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